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overland route through it, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He also gave an estimate of the probable time that would be occupied and the expenses incurred in travelling by this route, as compared with the voyage from England to Vancouver Island *via* Panama—viz., 43*l.* and 51 days against 33*l.* and 37 days, or 10*l.* and 4 days in favour of the Panama route.

The PRESIDENT congratulated the Society upon the fact that Dr. Rae, while accompanying two or three gentlemen on a buffalo shooting excursion, had fixed, by astronomical observations, the latitude and longitude of places which were before very imperfectly laid down on the maps. They were therefore much indebted to Dr. Rae for his communication.

The Meeting was then adjourned to April 27th.

Eleventh Meeting, Monday Evening, April 27th, 1863.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Lieut.-Colonel John Charles Downie Morrison; William Hatfield; Henry Pevenil Le Mesurier; George Loch; Henry Salt; and Cromwell Fleetwood Varley, Esqrs.*, were elected Fellows.

ACCESSIONS.—Among the donations to the Library and Map-Rooms since the former Meeting were—Holmes's 'Magneto-electric Light applicable to Lighthouses'; Pugh's 'Queensland Almanack' for 1862; Map of the Mekran Coast, from Kurráchi to the Persian Gulf; and continuations of Admiralty Charts and Ordnance Maps.

EXHIBITION.—M'Leod's 'Geological Map of England and Wales.'

THE PRESIDENT said he had received a letter from Mr. Tinné, in reference to the explorations of the Dutch and English ladies, his relatives, up the White Nile, which he would read.

"Being unable to attend your next Meeting, I have much pleasure in giving you, as requested, some further information regarding my lady relatives, of whose return from Gondókoro to Khartum on the 20th of November last you have already been apprised.

"Their last letter is to the 5th of February, at which date they had started on a fresh expedition up the White Nile, but were stopped, about three hours' sail from Khartum, by an accident which happened to one of their boats and threatened to swamp her. This was caused by the captain and the pilot, who, on being examined, were made to own that they had bored a hole in the bottom, being unwilling to go up the White Nile.

"The damage having been repaired, and a new crew engaged, they were on the point of proceeding on their voyage again.

"One of the ladies remained at Khartum, and Madame Tinné and her daughter were accompanied by Mr. D'Ablaing, a Dutch gentleman, who had come across from Abyssinia; by Mr. Heuglin, whose communications from Africa are known to the Royal Geographical Society; and by another German gentleman (whose name I am not yet acquainted with), a medical

man and naturalist, who also draws beautifully; so that, as Madame Tinné remarks, 'they hope to make a more scientific, if not a more agreeable, journey than the last.'

"The health of the party that had been at Gondókoro, some of whom had suffered from fever, was entirely restored during their prolonged stay of two months and a half at Khartum, and all were in excellent spirits. The weather had been cool, rather stormy at times, but agreeable and bracing, and the sky bright and blue.

"Their present expedition is on a larger scale than the former one. They have the steamer and five boats, with 168 people to provide for (50 of whom are additional soldiers), besides 4 camels, 30 mules and donkeys, and 3 horses. The boats had been repaired and refitted with new sails, and they had laid in guns, ammunition, new tents, and ample stores of all kinds. Further on, nothing of that description could be got, and everything therefore had to be procured beforehand.

"The Dutch gentleman intended to proceed up the Nile, and Madame Tinné and her daughter were to turn off at Bahr-el-Gazal. At some point of this river they would find the rest of their party, who had gone on in advance. Disembarking there, they proposed leaving their boats and commencing a land journey into the interior,—to use Madame Tinné's own words, 'into unknown parts.'

"She mentions Mr. Baker having started, and also speaks of the rumour about Mr. Petherick's disappearance, but nothing more decided than we have heard previously as to his fate."

For this communication from Mr. Tinné the President begged the Fellows to return their best thanks, for he was sure there were few persons more entitled to be honorary members of the Royal Geographical Society than those adventurous ladies.

The Papers read were—

1. *Exploration of the Elephant Mountain in the Batonga Country, West Africa.* By Capt. R. F. BURTON, H.M. Consul for the Bight of Biafra and Fernando Po.

CAPT. BURTON visited Batonga Bay in September, 1862, about the commencement of the second rainy season of the year. The bay is a mere roadstead, and the ship (H.M.S. *Bloodhound*) lay 1½ mile from the land. A heavy surf breaks on the whole coast from the Cameroons River to Corisco Island; and landing is almost exclusively effected in light native canoes. The shore shows a long line of densely-wooded lowland, based upon yellow sand. Inland are seen groups of low hills, conjectured to be the spurs of the Sierra del Crystal. This range, never yet crossed by any European, seems to form a line of Ghauts similar to those in Eastern Africa, at about 100 or 150 miles from the coast. The most remarkable among the intermediate hills is the "Elephant Mountain," so called from its resemblance to an elephant couchant. There are two or three factories belonging to European merchants in the bay, but none of the residents appear to have ever penetrated a mile of the interior. Although the country is rich, there is no trade but ivory;